



# Cycle Alton

## December 2021 newsletter

### 20s Plenty for Hampshire

Cycle Alton supports *20s Plenty for Hampshire*, a new local branch of the national campaign group which pushes for a default speed limit of 20mph along roads where people live, play and work. *20s Plenty* has amassed a huge amount of data showing, for instance, that driving at 20mph produces 25% fewer emissions than driving at 30mph. It makes sense to cut driving speeds for many reasons including road safety, air quality, noise levels and deterring rat-running. Scotland and Wales have already committed to reducing speeds in residential roads to 20mph; *20s Plenty* is campaigning for the whole of England to follow suit.



ATC will discuss this at their Planning & Transport Committee meeting next Wednesday 1st December, with the recommendation that they agree to making 20mph the default speed limit in residential areas in Alton where people live, work, shop, and play or learn; also to agree to calling on Hampshire County Council (HCC) to implement this within 2 years. HCC has already agreed to review its policy on speed limits next year. If you'd like to get involved *20s Plenty for Hampshire* would love to hear from you.

See <https://www.20splenty.org/>, and on social media <https://www.facebook.com/20splenty>  
<https://twitter.com/20splentyHants> <https://www.instagram.com/20splenty/?hl=en>

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### Bentley Rail Crossing Public Meeting



A public meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November at Bentley Memorial Hall in which Network Rail representatives presented their case for installing a footbridge and two lifts at Bentley Station. Heavily used by pedestrians and cyclists, the closure of the level crossing would present a significant barrier to those with a bicycle. Other options such as an underpass, ramp or locking gates all have major drawbacks around safety, cost or feasibility, while the proposal has a strong safety case. The representatives answered many audience questions, with one remaining option – that of stopping every train at Bentley Station – seeming to have the

most potential to avoid the unpopular closure of the level crossing.

The footbridge and lift construction isn't a foregone conclusion as a public inquiry will need to be held because of local sentiment, and the issue will most likely be decided ultimately by the Secretary of State in a couple of years' time.

The working group opposing the plans now has a website: <https://bentleycrossings.net/> and a formal letter of objection has been sent to Network Rail, signed by Cycle Alton amongst other signatories.

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## Pedal Power Training are looking for Trainers!

Pedal Power Training, a Portsmouth-based company who recently delivered our second successful session of adult cycle training, is looking for some more people to teach cycling skills to children in schools to meet the demand.

Steve Parry, a cycle instructor for 13 years said "I get such a kick from helping anyone to cycle safely, kids and adults. It's such a fun way to get around. Everyone feels like a child again, out to play, when they hop on their bike."

The schools programme, 'Bikeability' teaches children aged 10-12 years to develop their skills and become confident riding on local roads. Can you help? It's sessional work for as many weeks as you can offer, school hours only (8.30-3pm). All training is provided over 4 days. Pay is £80 a day. Anyone interested please contact Darren at Pedal Power, tel 02392 290474 [pedalpowertraining@gmail.com](mailto:pedalpowertraining@gmail.com)

If you'd like to be contacted about the next adult cycle training session in Alton next spring, please contact us at [cyclealton@gmail.com](mailto:cyclealton@gmail.com) and we'll add your name to the mailing list.

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## Santa's Eco-Sleigh

We're excited to see that when Santa returns this season to do his rounds in Alton he'll be using his new Eco-Sleigh! In conjunction with Alton Round Table and the 8<sup>th</sup> Alton Scout Group he'll be bringing cheer to all while helping to save the planet too; a good move Santa!

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## Cycle Repairs at the Alton Repair Café



The next Repair Cafe is on **Saturday 11th December**, 10.30-12.30 in the Community Centre, coinciding with a Craft Market in the High Street. The Repair Café volunteers can show you how to mend your punctures and adjust your gears and brakes. Don't worry if you miss this one, as they take place every two months or so and are widely advertised. The next one is expected to be on 26th February.

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Cycle Alton can be found online at <https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/our-groups/cycle-alton/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cyclealton>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CycleAlton>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cyclealton/?hl=en>

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